

REMARKS

This paper is being submitted in response to the Office Action ("Action") mailed on December 1, 2008. Claims 3-9 are pending. Claims 3-9 are rejected. Claim 8 is amended herein. Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of claims 3-9 in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks.

I. AMENDMENT TO SPECIFICATION

Paragraph 15 is amended to correctly identify element 23 (shown in FIG. 3) as the front cover. Paragraph 20 is amended to remove the element label 23 in relation to a second ply (not shown).

II. AMENDMENT TO DRAWINGS

Drawing Sheet 2 is amended so that Figure 3 shows the correct location of strip 26 in agreement with the written description and with the other Figures. Attached are one Replacement Sheet and one Annotated Sheet.

III. CLAIM OBJECTIONS

Claim 8 has been amended as requested by the Action to correct a grammar mistake.

IV. CLAIM REJECTIONS**35 USC § 103 (a) Rejections**

Claims 3-9 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Gelardi et al (US 2003/0106814) in view of Petermann (DE 20008218). Applicant respectfully traverses the rejections.

Petermann differs from Applicant's invention in at least two ways. Petermann has *two* strips along the spine, and *both* the top cover and the back cover are attached to the stack (e.g. the pages). Judging from a computerized translation on the UK Intellectual Property Office website at (http://v3.espacenet.com/publicationDetails/description?CC=DE&NR=20008218U1&KC=U1&FT=D&date=20000727&DB=EPODOC&locale=en_GB), which is attached to this response, Petermann appears directed toward a method of improving the adhesive strength between the book pages and the binding, whereby stitching of the pages is not needed, and the glued binding allows the pages to lay flatter in order to better see into the "trough" between pages. Petermann does not appear to assign any particular utility to the 3 mm wide "margins" that are located between the spine and *both* the front and back covers. Neither does Petermann appear to be concerned with binding pulling loose from a cover. Rather, Petermann appears to be concerned with pages pulling loose from a binding. Since Petermann does not assign any function to the "margin" and is not concerned with a binding coming loose from a cover, Petermann gives no motivation or suggestion to combine with Gelardi to achieve Applicant's structure. Even if Petermann was combined with Gelardi, this would suggest adding a margin strip on both the front cover *and the back cover*, as well as attaching the stack to both the front cover *and the back cover*. At least for these reasons, Applicant requests the withdrawal of the 103(a) rejection of claims 3-9.

ENTRY OF AMENDMENTS

The amendments to claim 8 herein, as requested by Examiner, and to the specification, and to the drawings should be entered by the Examiner because the amendments are supported by the as-filed specification and drawings and do not add any new matter to the application.

CONCLUSION

All remaining claims are believed to be in condition for allowance, and an early notice thereof is respectfully requested. Should the Examiner determine that additional issues exist which might be resolved by a telephone conference, they are respectfully invited to contact the Applicant's undersigned representative.

Concurrently with this response, Applicant submits the fee for a one-month extension of time.

The Director is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees or underpayments of fees under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 and 1.17, or to credit any overpayments, to Deposit Account Number 50-2616. Applicant is a large entity.

Respectfully Submitted,

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Attachments

1 Computerized Partial Translation of Petermann DE 20008218
1 Replacement Sheet
1 Annotated Sheet

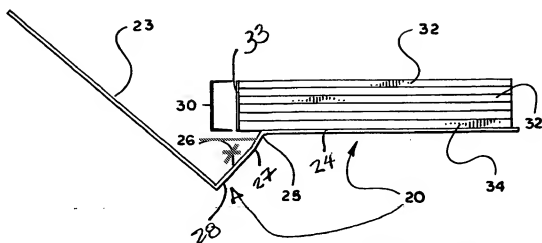


Fig. 3

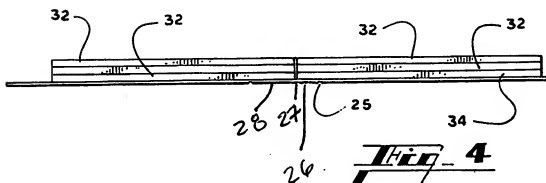


Fig. 4

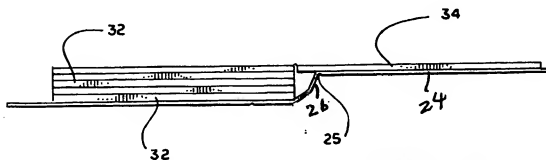


Fig. 5